

STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA*for Socialism | por el Socialismo*

The world says no to the blockade of Cuba

By Rosa Miriam Elizalde

Cuba won another diplomatic victory in the General Assembly of the United Nations June 23 against the government of the United States. The majority of countries (184) voted in favor of the resolution which calls for the lifting of the blockade against Cuba.

The resolution has been brought to the U.N. every year since 1992, except in 2020 when the government of Havana was unable to present it due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This victory is a reminder of the Cuban people's long wait for an act of justice that can rectify the worrying situation, which is a mix of the abuse of authority, the disproportionate use of violence, and the very specific intention to "destroy, totally or in part, a national, ethnic or racial group, in its totality," the U.N.'s definition of genocide in its 1948 Convention.

Only a very few cases of mass killings have been considered genocides unequivocally by the international community. However, there is no other name for this horror which has lasted for more than 60 years and has forced several generations of Cubans to go about their daily lives under a heavy fog.

This powerful elite carries out inhuman monstrosities against millions of people for the mere crime of existing. Is it not genocide to deny



In an historic U.N. General Assembly vote, 184 countries supported ending the U.S. blockade of Cuba. Only the U.S. and Israel voted against the resolution.

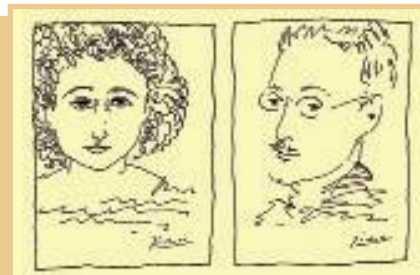
people, in the middle of a pandemic, medicine and food, access to internet services to the majority of people, to finance and trade between equals? If so, we must then, like Raphael Lemkin, invent a word for this nameless crime.

It is difficult to account for how many in Cuba have died because they did not have the medicine they needed or because it did not arrive on time. The report presented by Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez, on the damages of the blockade in 2020, has 60 pages without one adjective. The report is merely a list of what happened, excessive costs, items that did not arrive on

time because they had some component from the U.S. — from a plane to a respirator that was destined for an intensive care unit — names of companies that have refused to supply the island with the technology, raw materials, reactive agents, diagnostic kits, medicine, devices, equipment and replacement parts needed by a public health system.

A friend told me that the images of George Floyd's assassination had a strong impact in Cuba. Being suffocated on the ground by the police officer who refused to lift his knee off his neck, despite the cries of the victim saying that he couldn't

Continued on page 4

**THE ROSENBERGS**

► **Wealth taxes?**

► **Reparations: YES!**



Angela Davis – honorary member of ILWU Local 10

► **U.S. election interventions**



Protest exposes U.S. role in the Philippines

Unemployed Workers Union fights for benefits

The Unemployed Workers Union announced a lawsuit June 24 challenging Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's decision to end several pandemic unemployment programs early. The class-action lawsuit in Baltimore Circuit Court also seeks benefits for people whose cases have been pending in the state's claims system.

Many claimants have been disqualified from benefits "without explanation or hearing" or "were placed in an 'on-hold' status for months at a time or indefinitely," the lawsuit charges.

"The stories we have heard from people who have not received a dime — a dime — over the past year are beyond harrowing," attorney Alec Summerfield said at a press conference in Baltimore before heading into the courthouse to file the lawsuit. "People who worked for decades now cannot afford to put food on the table. This is a disgrace." 📷



The Rosenbergs were heroes

By Stephen Millies

In his funeral eulogy for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, W.E.B. Du Bois declared, “They died because they would not lie.” The Rosenbergs were burned to death in the electric chair by the U.S. government on June–teenth 1953.

Du Bois, the legendary Black scholar, also arranged the adoption of the Rosenbergs’ two young children, Michael and Robert. The Jewish orphans were adopted by Anne Meeropol and Abel Meeropol. Abel wrote “Strange Fruit,” a song about lynching that Billie Holiday made famous.

The Rosenbergs were blamed for the Soviet Union being able to develop an atomic bomb. Their frame-up and execution for espionage during the Korean War was the peak of the anti-communist witch hunt in the U. S.

The ruling class was in a frenzy because of the Chinese Revolution. The Soviet Union’s ability to defend itself against the Pentagon’s nukes made the bankers even more mad.

The FBI and corporate media insisted the Soviets “stole the secret” of the atom bomb. The real secret was revealed when the U.S. dropped an atom bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, on Aug. 6, 1945. By incinerating 100,000 people, including 30,000 Korean slave laborers, the Pentagon showed it was possible to develop nuclear weapons.

Showing it was what made it knowable. Some of the scientists involved in the Manhattan Project — the code name for the U.S. atom bomb project — gave the Soviets five years to match the U.S. effort.

The rub wouldn’t be in the theoretical work. U.S. scientists knew the Soviet Union had capable physicists.

Among them was Lev Landau, who would win the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1962. Even before the Bolshevik Revolution, the Russian chemist Dmitri Mendeleev had devised the periodic table of the elements.

U.S. scientists thought the Soviets would have difficulty in making extremely pure chemicals and seals to lock in corrosive gases. Because of socialist economic planning, the Soviet Union was able to concentrate its efforts and explode a nuclear device on Aug. 29, 1949. It took four years, not five, to produce.

Decades of lies

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover immediately set out to nab the “communist spies” that smuggled secrets. How else could those “stupid people” in the Soviet Union have produced nuclear weapons?

U.S. schoolchildren were taught their country was the land of great inventors like Thomas Edison. Newspapers told their readers that only the U.S. could have built the bomb.

Thirty years later, President Ronald Reagan said there wasn’t a Russian word for freedom. (There is. It’s *svoboda*.)

So U.S. capitalists were astonished when the Soviet Union sent the first artificial satellite into space on Nov. 7, 1957 — the 40th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution.

Claims that the Sputnik satellite was the result of spying fell flat. The Pentagon wasn’t able to launch its own satellite until months later, on Jan. 31, 1958.

It would have been much more difficult to execute the Rosenbergs after Sputnik. It shattered the bigoted conception that 150 different nationalities in the Soviet Union couldn’t do science.

Today another big lie is being told. The People’s Republic of China is being blamed for the COVID-19 pandemic.

With no evidence, the media and even comedians like Jon Stewart are claiming the coronavirus “leaked” from a Wuhan laboratory. This is a blood libel similar to blaming Jewish people for plagues in medieval Europe or the racist myth that immigrants bring diseases to the U.S.

Building a frame-up

The FBI framed the Rosenbergs and a co-defendant, Morton Sobell, by connecting dots and forging evidence. At the end of World War II, the Communist Party in the United States had around 75,000 members, according to the University of Washington’s “Mapping Social Movements” project, including thousands of Black members. They fought racism and built unions.

Over 10,000 party members were members of the U.S. armed forces. Some party members had government jobs, including the electrical engineer Julius Rosenberg, who was employed at Fort Monmouth army base in New Jersey.

The Manhattan Project had 130,000 employees. U.S. army counterintelligence agents constantly spied on them.

Even J. Robert Oppenheimer, considered to be the father of the atomic bomb, was a suspect. The army hesitated appointing Oppenheimer to lead the Manhattan Project’s Los Alamos laboratory because of his left-wing associations before the war.

Yet with thousands of U.S. Army and FBI agents prowling around, nobody claimed to have found any spy rings until after the Soviets exploded their bomb.

Julius Rosenberg was fired from his civilian job with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in January 1945 as a suspected communist. (He actually resigned his membership in 1942.) But Julius wasn’t arrested until July 1950.

At the time there were still around 40,000 Communist Party members. Hundreds of thousands of people had worked with the CP or the Young Communist League.

That was a big talent pool for Hoover and his FBI agents to construct a frame-up by matching people with left-wing backgrounds. They found out that Julius Rosenberg’s brother-in-law David Greenglass, an ex-YCL member, had worked as a machinist at Los Alamos.

Presto! The “Rosenberg spy ring” was invented.

Under threat of the death penalty, David Greenglass told prosecutors whatever they wanted. His lying testimony sent his sister Ethel Rosenberg to the electric chair. It took five jolts of electricity to kill her.

Show trial

The Rosenbergs and Morton Sobell were convicted in a show trial. Although at the time a quarter of New York City’s population was Jewish, not a single Jewish juror was chosen.

One of the federal prosecutors



Ethel Rosenberg and Julius Rosenberg, separated by heavy wire screen as they leave U.S. Court House after being convicted.

amine the original card, the FBI told them that the evidence was destroyed, even though J. Edgar Hoover called the Rosenberg case “the crime of the century.”

Smearing the dead

Millions of people around the world rallied around the Rosenbergs. They saw parallels between their frame-up and the anti-Jewish persecution of French army officer Alfred Dreyfus decades before.

The American Jewish Committee, which represents the small section of the Jewish Community that’s capitalist, didn’t think so. Writing in the AJC’s Commentary magazine, historian Lucy Dawidowicz endorsed the Rosenbergs’ execution.

Today when Jewish youth join marches supporting Palestinian liberation, Commentary magazine supports bombing and starving Gaza.

The publication of “Invitation to an Inquest” in 1965 sparked new interest in the Rosenberg and Sobell cases. The U.S. deep state counterattacked, particularly after the overthrow of the Soviet Union.

The FBI and CIA say they have proof that the Rosenbergs and Sobell were guilty. They point to the “Venona Project,” which consists of allegedly deciphered messages between Soviet agents in the U.S. and their Moscow headquarters. The documents claim to show that the Rosenbergs, Sobell and dozens of other people in the U.S. were Soviet agents.

Why should anybody believe U.S. spy agencies? These are the folks that told the world that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

Even if the Venona papers are genuine, the rub is matching code names with individuals. One of the alleged code names for Julius Rosenberg was “liberal.” Does that sound like a name for an accused communist super-spy?

The code name linked to Morton Sobell described him as having a wooden leg, which he didn’t have. There was no code name for Ethel Rosenberg.

The Venona Project smeared a series of liberals who couldn’t defend themselves since they were dead. That was the case of the economist Harry Dexter White, who worked in the U.S. Treasury Department.

The deep state and the ultra-right use the Venona papers to support Joe McCarthy’s phony charge that President Franklin Roosevelt’s administration was filled with communists.

The documents have also been used to rehabilitate Elizabeth Bentley’s tarnished reputation. The professional liar gave dishonest testimony against the Rosenbergs, defendants in other trials, and before a series of congressional witch-hunting committees.

Typical of the so-called “red spy queen” was her claim to have given the secret date of the Normandy landings to the Soviets. Actually, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower informed

was Roy Cohn, who had illegal “ex parte” conversations with presiding Judge Irving Kaufman in which Cohn urged the death penalty. After serving as Senator Joe McCarthy’s sidekick, Cohn became a lawyer and mentor for Donald Trump.

The evidence was flimsy. David Greenglass produced three crude sketches. One looked like a pie chart. A baby carriage couldn’t have been made from them, much less an atomic bomb.

Greenglass said his spy contact was Harry Gold, a chemist and pathological liar who admitted that he “lied for a period of 16 years.” Gold also claimed to be a courier for Klaus Fuchs, a scientist at Los Alamos.

Fuchs confessed he was a spy to a Scotland Yard detective and was jailed in Britain. Fuchs identified Gold as his contact from a picture.

Fuchs’ statement and identification of Gold is questionable. Fuchs never confronted Gold in a U.S. court and thus couldn’t be cross-examined. It’s striking that the convictions of Greenglass, Gold and Fuchs would have been impossible without their confessions.

The FBI even suspected future Nobel Prize winner Richard Feynman, who had been Fuchs’ roommate at Los Alamos. FBI agents changed their mind only because Feynman was completely non-political.

Morton Sobell was indicted because he was a schoolmate of Julius Rosenberg at New York’s City College and a former YCL member. The only witness against Sobell was Max Elitcher, who claimed vaguely to have seen Sobell visit Julius Rosenberg while carrying a container that could have had film in it.

He then said he had no idea what was in the container, yet Sobell was sentenced to 30 years in prison. He served 17, including five years at Alcatraz.

The prosecution stressed that Sobell and his family went to Mexico after David Greenglass was arrested. If Sobell was such a master spy, wouldn’t the Soviets have tried to help him escape?

Instead Mexican secret police kidnapped Sobell and turned him over to FBI agents at the border.

A key piece of evidence was forged. A hotel card from the Albuquerque Hilton was introduced to prove Harry Gold was in town to meet David Greenglass on June 3, 1945.

Miriam and Walter Schneir were authors of “Invitation to an Inquest,” a detailed exposé of the Rosenberg-Sobell case. They looked at copies of the card. It had different date stamps on the front and back despite Gold having checked in and out on the same day.

When the Schneirs sought to ex-

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

the Soviets of when D-Day would occur. He did so because he wanted them to launch an offensive and prevent German troops from being withdrawn from the Eastern Front.

Never forget the Rosenbergs

“I consider your crime worse than murder,” declared Judge Kaufman when he sentenced the Rosenbergs to the electric chair

Worse than the killers of the 14-year-old Emmett Till? The two racists who tortured the Black youth to death got off scot-free.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur wanted to drop dozens of atom bombs on Korea and China. Judge Kaufman blamed the Rosenbergs for the U.S. not being able to do so.

Former Secretary of State Dean Rusk wrote in his memoirs that the Pentagon’s Joint Chiefs wanted President John F. Kennedy to approve a plan to launch nuclear first strikes against the socialist countries.

The whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg revealed that the Pentagon plan would have killed 600 million people.

What if the Rosenbergs and Morton Sobell had helped the Soviets build an atom bomb? It was only because the Soviet Union — and later the People’s Republic of China and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea — were able to develop a deterrent to the Pentagon’s arsenal of atomic and hydrogen bombs that a nuclear holocaust was averted.

But the Rosenbergs and Sobell didn’t have the ability to penetrate the Manhattan Project. The FBI wanted them to finger dozens of liberals to back up Joe McCarthy’s fantastic claim of “20 years of treason” under the Roosevelt and Truman administrations.

The courage of Ethel Rosenberg, Julius Rosenberg and Morton Sobell prevented this nightmare.

Ethel Rosenberg was electrocuted for supposedly typing reports. She was arrested almost a month after Julius Rosenberg was jailed to put pressure on him to lie.

David Greenglass later admitted he lied about Ethel Rosenberg’s typing. Justice demands that Ethel Rosenberg be given a presidential pardon.

When Morton Sobell was 91 years old, he was badgered by New York Times reporter Sam Harris into saying he and Julius Rosenberg offered information to the Soviets. It was from their jobs as electrical engineers, not from the Manhattan Project.

Twenty-seven million Soviet people died defeating Hitler. Yet during World War II both Britain and the United States refused to share new anti-aircraft weapons and radar with the Soviets.

If Morton Sobell and Julius Rosenberg did indeed help the Soviets, it wasn’t espionage to help a gallant ally. It was whistleblowing, like Daniel Ellsberg did when he released the Pentagon Papers or the truth-telling by Chelsea Manning about U.S. war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The best way to honor the Rosenbergs is to fight even harder to free Mumia Abu-Jamal, Leonard Peltier, Ruchell Cinque Magee, Sundiata Acoli, Mutulu Shakur and dozens of other political prisoners.

One way to do so is to donate to the Rosenberg Fund for Children, which helps the children of political prisoners, at RFC.org.

Long live the memory of Ethel Rosenberg, Julius Rosenberg and Morton Sobell! 📌

Wealth taxes?

We could do better than taxing the rich

By Lallan Schoenstien

A message to those who leaked the tax records of the extremely wealthy who do not pay taxes:

Whoever leaked this report deserves a reward for revealing the information. Access to these tax reports is the right of all working people, who pay a disproportionate share of their income in taxes.

ProPublica released its report, “The Secret IRS Files: Trove of Never-Before-Seen Records Reveal How the Wealthiest Avoid Income Tax,” on June 8. It revealed that:

- In 2007, Jeff Bezos, then a multi-billionaire and now the world’s richest man, did not pay a penny in federal income taxes. He achieved the feat again in 2011.
- In 2018, Tesla founder Elon Musk, the second-richest person in the world, also paid no federal income taxes.
- Michael Bloomberg managed to do the same in recent years.
- Billionaire investor Carl Icahn did it twice.
- George Soros paid no federal income tax three years in a row.

The data provides an unprecedented look inside the financial lives of U.S. capitalist titans, including Warren Buffett, Bill Gates, Rupert Murdoch and Mark Zuckerberg.

A tax rate of only 3.4%

According to Forbes, the 25 wealthiest saw their worth rise a collective \$401 billion from 2014 to 2018. They paid a total of \$13.6 billion in federal income taxes in those five years, IRS data shows. That’s a staggering sum, but it amounts to a true tax rate of only 3.4%.

By the end of 2018, the 25 were worth \$1.1 trillion.

For comparison, it would take 14.3 million ordinary workers in the U.S. put together to equal that same amount of wealth.

The personal federal tax bill for the top 25 in 2018: \$1.9 billion.

The bill for real wage earners: \$1.24 trillion (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, April 17, 2020).



The wealthy did not gain their immeasurable riches by some magic elixir they may claim to have cooked up by their “rare genius.” Instead, the source of their wealth is unpaid labor, extracted in profits from the sweat and blood of the workers who have to pay taxes.

Workers earn the miserly wages allotted to them so that they can continue to create more wealth. Then this income is taxed. It can be bitterly joked that the poorer you are, the more it costs to live.

The small, ultra-wealthy sector of society does not pay taxes because they do not report an income. They do not work for wages. Also, they employ tax attorneys who write the tax laws to make sure their profits are exempt.

Biden's response

In response to the ProPublica report, the Biden administration announced it was conducting a multi-pronged investigation to determine the source of the IRS leak. They claim the unauthorized disclosure of tax return information is the crime — not the failure to pay taxes.

This is in spite of Biden's “Made

in America” tax plan that vaguely promises more equitable taxation.

Workers have little access to information on the value of the wealth they create. According to the U.S. Treasury Department, they are not even supposed to know that the super-rich are not taxed on the growth of that wealth.

Certainly wage earners who pay income taxes have little control on how the proceeds are spent, including the U.S. military-industrial complex that is destroying the planet, as well as the cost of supporting a murderously racist police force for the protection of the wealthy and their property.

Another tax evasion by the wealthy is hidden in their “philanthropy.” One result of this philanthropy is the privatization of services that are supposed to be provided by the government.

Is the solution a tax on the wealthy? Who would administer that wealth tax? This government is dedicated to and run for the benefit of the ruling capitalist class. It’s a classic case of the fox guarding the chicken house.

How could there be justice without getting rid of the fox? 📌

NYS Assembly says ‘Yes’ to reparations

By Stephen Millies

The New York State Assembly voted 107-43 on June 9 to establish the “New York State Community Commission on Reparations Remedies.” The 43 assembly members who voted against this historic act authored by Assembly Member Charles Barron are nothing but Holocaust deniers.

The legislation sets up a commission that will decide how much is to be paid for over 400 years of slavery, torture and death. An important feature of Assembly Bill A2619A is that the commission won’t just have a small number of hand-picked elected officials.

Two representatives each will be included from three Black community groups that have fought for reparations for decades. They are the National Coalition of Blacks for Rep-

arations in America (N’COBRA); the Institute of the Black World; and the December 12th Movement.

The December 12th Movement called a noontime news conference and rally the next day, on June 10. It was held on sacred ground: the African Burial Ground in lower Manhattan.

Omowale Clay of D12 welcomed activists. While noting that no amount of money can compensate for centuries of genocide, Clay said the commission can determine how much must be paid.

Omowale Clay said that the December 12th Movement will be holding a Juneteenth Commemoration at Frederick Douglass Square (formerly Nostrand and Jefferson avenues) in Brooklyn. It will start at 12 noon on Saturday, June 19.

Larry Hamm, chair of the Peo-

ple’s Organization for Progress in New Jersey, called the bill’s passing a “great victory.” POP is pushing to pass reparations legislation in the Garden State.

Hamm said that national reparations bill H.R. 40 — named for the 40 acres of land that was promised to every enslaved African family — has been introduced in every session of Congress since 1989. It’s time to get it passed.

Fighting for the burial ground

That grand old fighter, Rev. Herbert Daughtry, 90 years young, described the struggle to preserve the African Burial Ground, where remains were uncovered during a construction project in 1991. Activists including Rev. Daughtry, the late Sonny Abubadika Carson and the

Continued on page 6

Angela Davis' Juneteenth wish becomes a reality

By Lallan Schoenstein

On June 19, at a Juneteenth membership meeting, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10 in the San Francisco Bay Area inducted Angela Davis as an honorary member.

Local 10 President Trent Willis opened the ceremony by calling on women members of the longshore workers' union and women members of the community to testify on Angela Davis' behalf.

They each said that Davis' lifetime of fighting for social justice had opened doors for them. Much of what they spoke about was written on the plaque certifying her membership:

"Sister Angela Davis' selection ... is a testament to her life's work that embodies what ILWU Local 10 stands for. She is a radical African American female activist-scholar writer and educator, who has been in the vanguard of the Black liberation movement and struggle for the emancipation of the working class at home and abroad.

"She is indeed an internationalist. Her politics and beliefs reflect those of the founders of the ILWU. As a result, Sister Angela has been the victim of targeting by the FBI, she has faced death threats, she has also been placed on the FBI 10 Most Wanted List, and held as a political prisoner. All of this is attributed to her uncompromising commitment to fighting systemic racism, capitalism, and imperialism."

Call for justice in 1971

Davis has a long history with the ILWU.

In 1971, Cleophas Williams, the first African American president of ILWU Local 10 wrote the following resolution which called for justice for Angela Davis at the ILWU Convention:

"WHEREAS: We know from California history that anti-radical hysteria and frameup are anti-labor weapons; and

"WHEREAS: We know that Tom Mooney, a labor organizer, was kept in prison for 32 years before

it was officially acknowledged that he was framed. We know that Harry Bridges was persecuted for 20 years because he was an effective and militant union leader; and

"WHEREAS: Now there is a relentless crusade to kill Angela Davis, prejudice and frameup is now employed to crush Black Militancy. The same device has always been used against labor when the powers of big business and government decide that organized workers are 'getting out of line;' and

"WHEREAS: When President Nixon, Governor Reagan and the big money press incite the legal lynching of Angela Davis, experience tells us to beware. Those are our enemies too. It could well be us 'next time around,' or it could be you; and

"WHEREAS: Angela is also charged with conspiracy. An old gimmick used to repress the labor movement in this country. We defend ourselves by defending Angela Davis;

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The International Convention of the ILWU goes on record to support Angela Davis and to see that she receives a fair trial and is released on bail pending trial."

Juneteenth speech becomes reality

This is only the third time an honorary ILWU membership has been bestowed, the first being to Paul Robeson in 1943, and the second to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who had spoken before ILWU Local 10 only six months before he was assassinated.

When the union's president, Trent Willis, spoke on Angela Davis' membership, he talked about what it meant to be a member of ILWU Local 10 and it's historic Black, Brown, Red, Yellow and white rank-and-file unity. He said, "Know who you are!"

Willis said he'd been reading Malcolm X on "The Ballot or the Bullet." He explained that the racist war is ongoing and that the union contract is a form of war meant to prevent



On the left, Clarence Thomas presents the ILWU Local 10 Honorary Membership Certificate to Angela Davis. On the right, she was given an archival photo of her that Ken Green took on June 24, 1980.

In his presentation Thomas talked about Davis' childhood in Birmingham, Alabama. "Her parents, who were Black leftists, lived on Dynamite Hill, so named because white supremacists, the KKK, terrorized the Black community with dynamite blasts. The influence of Davis' politically radical family on her intellectual development was a great advantage."

real war. He said that if people were denied participation in the voting process, as is currently being enacted by some in the U.S. Congress and some states, that denial of rights is an open act of war.

In upholding the fighting legacy of ILWU Local 10, Willis pointed out that Davis had gone to prison to defend her people. The union hall erupted!

Angela Davis expressed her appreciation by reiterating the role of Local 10 in linking the fight for workers' rights to combating racist capitalism. She talked about how Local 10 had refused to unload cargo from apartheid ships from South Africa as well as the recent apartheid ship from Israel; how they used their power at the point of production to support Mumia Abu-Jamal. The union hall erupted again!

One year ago, during the height of the pandemic, Angela Davis spoke to dockworkers and community protesters at the 2020 Juneteenth Commemoration at the Port of Oakland.

She said, "I was thinking the other day that if I did not become a university professor, my next choice probably would have been to become a dock worker or warehouse worker in order to be a member of the most radical union in the country, the ILWU."

In her speech on Juneteenth 2021, Honorary ILWU Local 10 Member Angela Davis spoke about the official U.S. government recognition of the holiday occurring some 158 years after the Emancipation Proclamation and one year after the burst of outrage that gripped the country following the police murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and all the others. [R]

World says no to blockade of Cuba

Continued from page 1

breathe. The video went viral across the world and was the catalyst for the largest anti-racist protest in the United States since the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

We understand the feeling of impotence of the people of the United States who feel rightly so that this is a systematic abuse of power. In the case of the 8 minutes and 46 seconds of George's agony, it was key that the entire incident was recorded.

The question that remains, after the conviction of the killer cop, is how many other people have been killed or have suffered in silence simply because there was no camera when the system didn't let them breathe. We know that there is always a knee on someone's neck, suffocating them.

This is what happens with the blockade. This strange word that may seem to be abstract for many, but not for the person who finds themselves in the emergency room in Cuba, has a sick child or has spent six hours in line to buy food that before the 242 additional sanctions added by Donald Trump and before the damn pandemic, could be found with less difficulty.

Joe Biden's representative at the U.N. reached new levels of cynicism when they said that the blockade is the responsibility of the Cuban government which uses it as a pretext to remain in power. This is like George Floyd's killer saying his knee on somebody else's neck was the victim's excuse for suffocating.

As such, these are moments of joy in Cuba as we learn that once again from the New York headquarters of the U.N., the world said no to the U.S. blockade. This coincided with more hopeful news: Cuban scientists were able to finalize the first two Latin American vaccines. One of them, Abdala, has a 92.28% rate of efficacy.

Rosa Miriam Elizalde is a Cuban journalist and founder of the site *Cubadebate*. She is vice president of both the Union of Cuban Journalists (UPEC) and the Latin American Federation of Journalists (FELAP). She has written and co-written several books including *Jinetes en la Habana* and *Our Chavez*. She has received the Juan Gualberto Gómez National Prize for Journalism on multiple occasions for her outstanding work. She is currently a weekly columnist for *La Jornada* of Mexico City.

This article was first published in *La Jornada*.



PHOTO: NOURA KHOURI

From left: Isaac Ontiveros, Lara Kiswani, Spenta Kandawalla, Chris Lymbertas, and Monica Ramsey from Arab Resource and Organizing Center (AROC). They attended the Local 10 Juneteenth Celebration to thank the union for refusing to cross the picketline against the Israeli Zim ship set up in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

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NEW
BOOK

No one is laughing at Biden's joke about U.S. interference in elections

By Scott Scheffer

At a June 16 news conference after meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Joe Biden was asked about the phony accusations of Russian interference in U.S. elections. Incredibly, he responded by saying: "How would it be if the United States were viewed by the rest of the world as interfering with the elections directly of other countries, and everybody knew it?"

The fact is that hundreds of thousands of people around the world have been victims of violence, been imprisoned and/or lost family members because of U.S. interventions in their elections.

The United States is the most prodigious rigger of elections in the world by far. Most often, the "victors" in the rigged elections were dictatorial right-wing figures that used bloody repression to help keep massive profits flowing into the vaults of U.S. banks and corporations.

'Yanks to the rescue'

One example particularly relevant now is a covert campaign to fix the 1996 Russian presidential election. A cartoon caricature of Boris Yeltsin holding a U.S. flag above the words "Yanks to the rescue" was featured on the cover of Time magazine in 1996.

Yeltsin "won" against First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation Gennady Zyuganov by 13 points — in spite of the fact that only months earlier, Yeltsin had been polling at 6% and communists had just won a majority in the Duma (parliament).

Zyuganov had been calling for a return to socialism. The historic freefall in living standards after the collapse of the Soviet Union fueled his popularity. With covert help and millions of U.S. dollars, Yeltsin's campaign spread fear that a Zyuganov victory would result in civil war.

CIA campaigns to fix elections or to overthrow newly-elected leftists and progressives are so numerous that Dov Levin, a political scientist at Carnegie Mellon University, created

a database that lists U.S. interventions in elections from 1946 to 2000.

Levin doesn't count the bloody coups that have taken place soon after leftist victories. Still, Levin's database lists 81 covert campaigns, most attributed to the CIA, to assure a victory for a pro-U.S. candidate. The tactics included threatening rival candidates, threats to withdraw aid and pumping money into ads to promote lies.

CIA braggards

Many U.S. politicians, former CIA officers and operatives are quite candid about U.S. interference when asked, differing only in how much they're willing to reveal.

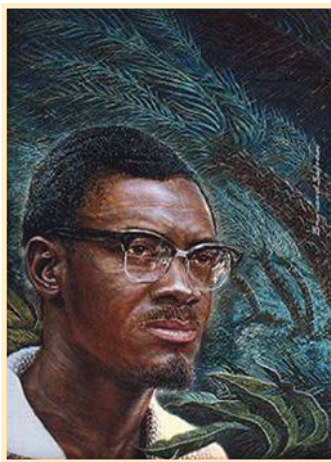
Regarding the 2000 election in Yugoslavia, President Bill Clinton made no bones about the fact that the CIA spent \$40 million to try to defeat President Slobodan Milosovic. "I didn't have a problem with it," said Clinton.

Some operatives deny influencing elections altogether. Others, like former CIA Director Leon Panetta, admit that the agency's method was often to "acquire media within a country or a region that could very well be used for being able to deliver a specific message" or work to "influence those that may own elements of the media."

The consequences of U.S. election meddling are tragic. When the schemes are successful, they block plans for the targeted country to develop independently of the tiny clique of multibillionaires in the U.S. that exploit so much of the world. They impose deep poverty and repression.

Although the bloody overthrows and assassinations of newly-elected progressive leaders aren't tabulated in Levin's database, he acknowledges that his count would be much higher if they were.

Over the years, thousands have been massacred while the U.S.



Democratic Republic of the Congo Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba was assassinated by the CIA, as confirmed in the 1975-76 U.S. Senate Church Committee report.

was eliminating anti-imperialist figures and progressives who already held office.

Assassination of Lumumba

Called the most important assassination of the 20th century by progressive Belgian author Ludo De Witte, the 1961 U.S./Belgian coup and assassination of Democratic Republic of the Congo Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba was a profound setback to Africa and to all people fighting against colonialism.

The U.S. had been the first to recognize the claims of Belgium's King Leopold, who murdered millions of Congolese people in the 19th century. By the mid-20th century the colonialists were robbing the country's uranium for nuclear weapons, as well as other valuable natural resources.

Lumumba was determined to win control over his country's resources and improve living conditions for his people. After Lumumba declared Congo to be independent of Belgian colonization, the CIA and Belgian intelligence whipped up secessionist movements in the mineral-rich areas of the country, and within seven months captured and executed the young anti-imperialist leader.

1953 coup in Iran

In 1953, the CIA — along with British intelligence — orchestrated a coup to overthrow Iranian Prime Minister Mohamad Mosaddegh and reinstall Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

The popular Mosaddegh had spent his short time in office struggling to limit the amount of control the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (now BP) had over the country's oil, to alleviate widespread poverty in Iran. When the British refused even an audit, Iran's

parliament voted to nationalize the oil and expel foreign executives.

The U.S. and Britain had operatives lined up from among the various police forces and convoyed paid thugs into Teheran to launch the coup. Hundreds were killed in the coup itself, and SAVAK, the Shah's secret police, murdered tens of thousands over the next 25 years.

200,000 killed, 'disappeared' in Guatemala

In 1954, the CIA organized a coup to overthrow leftist Guatemalan President Jacobo Árbenz, to put an end to a revolutionary period that began in 1944 with a people's uprising that toppled a military dictatorship and brought in President Juan Jose Arevalo.

Many foreign estates were confiscated and redistributed to peasants; landowners were obliged to provide adequate housing for workers; new schools, hospitals and houses were built; and a new minimum wage was introduced.

Arevalo was succeeded by Árbenz, who continued the process with more land reforms and the legalization of the communist Guatemalan Party of Labor. The United Fruit Company pressed the Eisenhower administration for action to safeguard its profits.

Using psychological warfare and an armed force of several hundred, the CIA overthrew President Árbenz. The Guatemalan people's guerrilla armies courageously fought a series of brutal U.S.-backed dictatorships that targeted Indigenous populations most heavily. The toll of people killed and "disappeared" is believed to be at least 200,000 over 40 years.

There are many, many more examples that can be given, including the 2019 coup against Bolivian President Evo Morales.

Joe Biden knows this history. His pretense of U.S. innocence convinced no one and can never change the fact that each counter-revolutionary operation, each action to strengthen U.S. dominance, has galvanized anti-imperialist forces around the world. ☐

Protest at Philippine Embassy exposes U.S. role in repression

By Cat

Washington, D.C. — Filipino-American activists and solidarity allies throughout the metropolitan area staged a protest and program in front of the Philippine Embassy on June 15 to counter Ambassador Jose Romualdez's reception dinner celebrating 75 years of "thriving Philippine-United States relations."

The protest was held to emphasize the unequal and exploitative relations of the U.S. and the Philippines, and to highlight the atrocities that the Philippine government has committed against its citizens. The protesters also expressed their

anger over the contrast between the lavish reception hosted by the ambassador and the ordeal of Filipinos back home and across the diaspora suffering from hunger and COVID-19.

After the activists conducted a noise barrage to assert their presence, CJ of Anakbayan D.C. and Rob from Katarungan kicked off the night with a punk rendition of "Muog na Buo" ("Solid Fortress") as the crowd cheered on and continued to make noise, forcing the embassy to move its lavish dinner inside.

GABRIELA D.C.'s Jo and Kai Kai performed a spoken-word piece remembering those targeted and

murdered by the Filipino government, and to honor those who continue to fight and lead the movement towards victory.

'End U.S. military aid'

Bennard from Migrante D.C., an organization of Filipino migrant workers, said: "This empire may be friends with the oppressor and ruling class of the Philippines, but it will never be friends with the Filipino people."

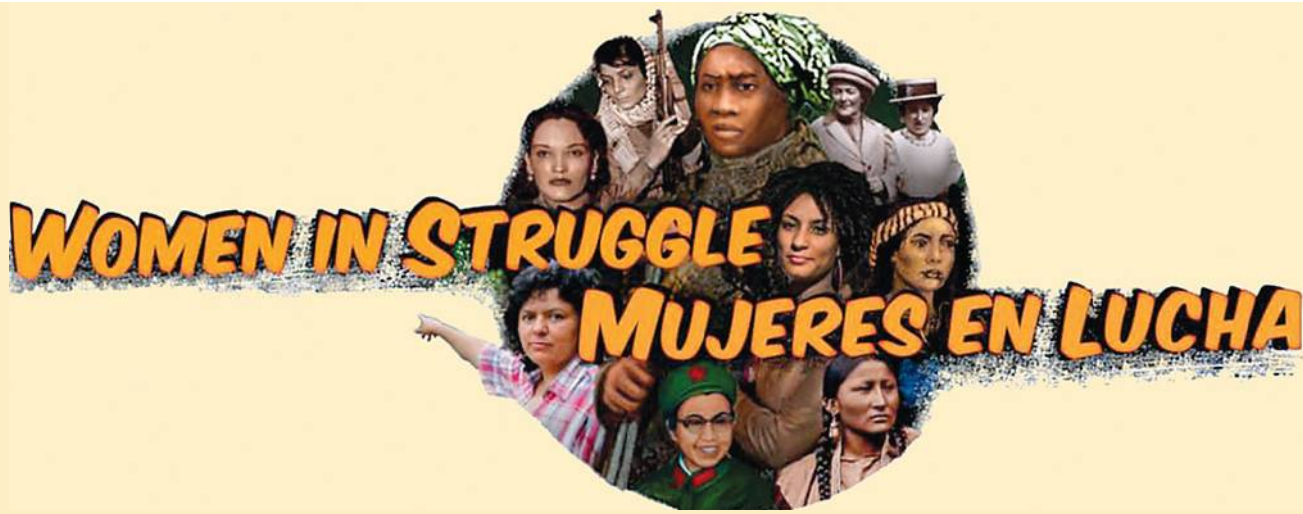
Sarah from Anakbayan D.C., a Filipino youth mass organization for national democracy, addressed Ambassador Romualdez directly:



"We challenge you to listen to the screams and cries of the Filipino people. We call for an end to U.S. military aid, murdering our people under the fascist Duterte regime."

Catherisa from Katarungan, a grassroots solidarity organization, spoke about the Indigenous popula-

Continued on page 6



Declaración de SOLIDARIDAD con Cuba de Mujeres en Lucha – Women in Struggle

Mujeres en Lucha – Women in Struggle, organización miembro de la FDIS fundada en los Estados Unidos, se une al clamor mundial que exige a Estados Unidos – este gobierno del centro del imperialismo – el Cese DEFINITIVO del CRIMINAL BLOQUEO a nuestra nación hermana la República de Cuba.

Si la administración Biden vota No el 23 de junio, está votando en contra de la voluntad del pueblo estadounidense. Organizaciones gubernamentales y sindicales electos que representan a más de 30 millones de estadounidenses han pasado resoluciones pidiendo el fin del bloqueo. Los propios cubanos residentes en Estados Unidos han protestado en caravanas de autos y bicicletas contra el bloqueo que golpea a sus familias.

Mientras en Estados Unidos se apartan cruelmente a niñas y niños de sus familias

solo por el hecho de haber nacido fuera de las fronteras imperialistas; se le niega la justicia a sus hijos de naciones originarias como Leonard Peltier, o a heroicos portavoces del pueblo negro como Mumia Abu Jamal; se persigue a valerosos baluartes representantes de luchas por derechos civiles, de género, sindicales, y de todo lo que represente justicia social, económica y ambiental; este país que tiene un monumental historial terrorista en contra de países a los cuales declara unilateralmente como enemigos lanzándole sus poderosas y asesinas fuerzas militares, este país de enorme crueldad tiene la osadía de declarar un acto de guerra – un BLOQUEO – contra un pueblo noble y generoso como el de Cuba.

Cuba ha sido y continúa siendo un glorioso ejemplo de humanidad y solidaridad internacional. Solidaridad que ha demostrado

incluso en beneficio del pueblo estadounidense a pesar de la agresión de ese gobierno contra el pueblo cubano.

No obstante, Cuba socialista ha desarrollado cinco proyectos de vacuna COVID-19 para inocular a su población. Ayer se anunció que la vacuna cubana Abdala, tiene una eficacia del 92,28 por ciento, la cuarta a nivel internacional. Un inmenso logro para un pequeño país en medio de una pandemia que afecta grandemente la economía sumándose a un bloqueo estadounidense cruelmente intensificado. Nos regocijamos con el mundo por la esperanza que trae esta noticia para derrotar al virus a través de la solidaridad global.

Desde cada una de nuestras trincheras de lucha seguiremos enarbolando la bandera de la unión entre los pueblos y la defensa de la República de Cuba.

¡VIVA LA SOLIDARIDAD INTERNACIONAL!
¡VIVA LA REPÚBLICA DE CUBA REVOLUCIONARIA!
¡FIN AL CRIMINAL BLOQUEO!

Martes, 22 de junio de 2021

‘YES’ to reparations

Continued from page 3

late Elombe Brath put their bodies on the line to prevent its desecration.

Daughtry reminded listeners of the national reparations march that was held in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 17, 2002 — the 115th birthday of the Honorable Marcus Garvey. Herman Ferguson, a co-worker of Malcolm X, who died in 2014, was a main organizer of that event.

Then Charles Barron started the chant: “What do we want? Reparations! When do we want it? Now!”

The former Black Panther, who says that he will always be a Panther, is demanding \$1 trillion as a down payment. He demanded that the New York State Senate pass the bill and Gov. Andrew Cuomo sign it.

“Some people say, “Well, I didn’t oppress you, my European ancestors came at the turn of the century. Why should I have to pay?” I don’t care if you came here last night,” Barron said. “You benefited from the parasitic capitalist system.”

“For those who died in the Middle Passage, 10, 20, 30 millions, this day is for you,” said Barron. The assembly member listed a series of rebellions of enslaved Africans, including those that erupted in New York City.



SLL PHOTOS: STEPHEN MILLIES

June 10 news conference at the African Burial Ground in New York City.

“This day is for you, Haiti.”

Barron told how the late Queen Mother Audley Moore got a million signatures on a reparations petition and forced John F. Kennedy — who was then running for president — to sign it.

New York City Council Member Inez Barron urged the council to pass Resolution 1039 demanding the state set up the reparations commission.

N’COBRA representative Courtland W. Hankins III pointed out that Wall Street was built on slavery.

Roger Wareham of D12 said that “any further delay is unacceptable.” He described how D12 has fought for reparations for 30 years.

As D12 told the 2001 United Nations World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa: “They stole us! They sold us! They owe us!”

Protest at Philippine Embassy exposes U.S. role in repression

Continued from page 5

tion of Mindanao known as the Lumad: “Earlier this month, a group of Lumad students were coerced by the Philippine military to demolish their school under threat of arrest.”

Colectivo Kawsay’s Marian emphasized the importance of international solidarity, as she spoke about Latin America-U.S. relations: “By providing military aid and supporting puppet leaders, the U.S. continues to destabilize our home countries while criminalizing us when we try to migrate here.”

‘Guilty of unlawful killings’

Posters 4 Government, also known as Johnny, shared a heart-wrenching story of a couple who were murdered by the Philippine government for setting up mutual aid efforts to feed the community.

Rasha from the Palestinian Youth Movement, a collection of Arab youth fighting for the liberation of their land and all lands, spoke about the systems that perpetuate the need to fight: “The struggle of the

Philippines is a product of centuries of colonization, feudalism, and, in its current iteration, imperialism.

“We stand unequivocally against all of these systems and demand the total dismantlement of U.S. imperialism and capitalism globally.”

Jhong, coordinator for BAYAN USA in the DMV region, closed the night with a message addressed to the U.S.: “We are not your little brown brother, but a sovereign nation struggling to be free.”

The powerful collective effort of progressive Filipino organizations and solidarity allies blossomed into a successful and meaningful protest, forcing Ambassador Romualdez’s reception to end early as the VIP guests filed out of the building escorted by D.C. Metro Police and Secret Service.

The speakers encouraged the crowd to attend the Peoples’ State of the Nation Address event at the end of July to oppose Duterte’s supposed last State of the Nation Address and continue to fight for national liberation. 📌

STRUGGLE ★ **LA LUCHA**
for Socialism | *por el Socialismo*